

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00798 160730Z

12
ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 SMI-01 NGA-01 USIA-15 /033 W
----- 099310
R 160445Z AUG 73
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 561

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL, CH
SUBJECT: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION

REF: PEKING 543

1. HSIAO K'O, DEPUTY DIRECTOR MFA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT,
MADE FOLLOWING POINTS ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION
DURING AUGUST 15 MEETING WITH HOLDRIDGE AND PLATT.

A. PARIS EXHIBITION CANNOT REACH U.S. BEFORE END OF NOVEMBER
1974 FOR EXHIBITION AT BEGINNING OF DECEMBER. HOWEVER,
EXHIBITION NOW ON DISPLAY IN TOKYO COULD BE SCHEDULED TO
ARRIVE U.S. IN APRIL 1974 IF U.S. AUTHORITIES WISHED.

B. INFORMATION ON COMPARATIVE CONTENT OF THE TWO EXHI-
BITIONS AVAILABLE IN CATALOGUES (HSIAO HANDED US ONE ON
EACH EXHIBITION WHICH WILL BE AIRPOUCHED AUGUST 17), ALTHOUGH
CATALOGUES DID NOT LIST EVERY ITEM ON DISPLAY. MUSEUM
REPRESENTATIVES MIGHT ALSO WISH TO VISIT THE EXHIBITIONS IF NECESSARY
TO MAKE DECISIONS ON WHICH MORE ACCEPTABLE. (BOTH
EXHIBITS SHOW JADE BODYSUITS, THE PARIS ONE SEWN WITH
GOLD THREAD, THE TOKYO SUIT WITH SILVER.)

C. NO MATTER WHERE TOKYO EXHIBITION GOES AFTERWARDS, WHETHER
TO U.S. OR TO ANOTHER COUNTRY, IT WILL NEED TO BE "ADJUSTED".
SOME OBJECTS, PARTICULARLY SILKS EXHUMED FROM HAN DYNASTY
TOMBS IN CHANGSHA, HAVE DETERIORATED AND MUST BE REPLACED.

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D. A STAY OF LONGER THAN FOUR MONTHS MAY BE POSSIBLE TO

ARRANGE, BUT THE YEAR-LONG INTERVAL REQUESTED WILL BE DIFFICULT TO MANAGE (HSIAO'S MANNER, IN FACT, SUGGESTED THIS WOULD BE EXTREMELY UNLIKELY). SHOWING THE EXHIBIT IN MORE THAN ONE CITY WILL ALSO BE HARD TO HANDLE AND FROM CHINESE STANDPOINT UNDESIRABLE. IN CHINESE EXPERIENCE, MOVE FROM ONE CITY TO ANOTHER TAKES TWENTY DAYS, INVOLVING PACKING, SHIPPING AND SECURITY PROBLEMS, NOT TO MENTION INCREASED CHANCES OF DAMAGE TO EXHIBITS.

2. HSIAO ASKED US TO LET HIM KNOW AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE WHICH EXHIBITION THE UNITED STATES WANTED. ONCE THAT DECISION WAS MADE THERE WERE A NUMBER OF DETAILED AND COMPLICATED ARRANGEMENTS THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE. HOLDRIDGE PROMISED TO REPORT BACK TO THE U.S. IMMEDIATELY AND PRESENT MUSEUM AUTHORITIES WITH THE CHOICE. WE WOULD LET HIM KNOW AS SOON AS WE RECEIVED AN ANSWER.
BRUCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARCHEOLOGY, CULTURAL EXHIBITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PEKING00798
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730834/aaaaayql.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: PEKING 543
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Nov-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <05-Dec-2001 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION
TAGS: SCUL, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005